

# THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 1

THE VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AT MISSISSAUGA

AUGUST 30,

## Anti-corporate orientation

Alternative competes with SAC

BY MARK BUDGELL

U of T's Graduate Student Union (GSU), along with a coalition of students and community, are taking a stand against corporations at U of T by spearheading a corporate-free orientation called "This Way Please."

Students' Administrative Council (SAC) Vice President, Paul Kutasi, and SAC's Orientation Coordinator, David Nam, doubt that a corporate sponsored orientation will adversely affect frosh.

G S U 's

President Paul Tsang described the "This Way Please" as "students taking a stand. We come to university for free thought, not to be marketed, or sold, or treated like consumers."

Tsang feels that events such as frosh week that receive financial support from outside corporate sponsors send the wrong message and produce a negative effect on students.

"You see [the advertising] and it is in your face. Advertising creates a negative learning environment. It sets the tone that there isn't any choice, that corporations are necessary for things to be done," said Tsang.

He also warned that advertising

may have hidden affects on students.

"Advertising has hidden effects; it affects your choices. Corporation want all choices to be almost unconscious and they influence choices," said Tsang.

SAC holds a frosh week sponsored by corporations, and SAC officials doubt that the advertising will hurt frosh. SAC's Nam, fears that the corporate free event may send the wrong message to new students.

"We are a university community, we should be able to act like one," said Nam. "I think this event presents a negative image to new students. Why is it necessary to alienate students upon arrival at U of T? I invite them to come and join in SAC's events."

Nam also pointed out that "new students at U of T are intelligent and aware enough to make their own decisions," despite advertising ploys used by corpora-

**"Advertising has hidden effects, it affects your choices."**  
—Paul Tsang

tions. His sentiments are shared by Kutasi. "I don't think that people give students enough credit. Students are intelligent enough to see through it. They are attacked by corporations all the time," said Kutasi.

According to Kutasi the corporate presence at SAC's event this year will be the smallest in years and that any influence will be slight. "I can see corporations getting lost in the shuffle because so much is going on," said Kutasi, who pointed out that corporate presence will be minimal in comparison to U of T clubs.

Kutasi feels that the corporate-free event is a bad move for GSU. "They are getting away from the whole point of orientation. The point is to orientate frosh to university and help them meet new people. I think their message is caught up in some kind of political ideology. SAC can't get caught up in political ideologies that favor one side of the political spectrum. GSU is selling a message, we're just offering orientation."

Kutasi played down the effects of the anti-corporate sentiment displayed by GSU and its associates involved in the anti-corporate event. "Anti-corporate sentiment has not hurt our ability to find cor-

☞ SAC continued on page 3

## The \$6 million deadline



The hole in the roof of UTM's new Student Centre is a "work of art." Looks like hole to me. The pub is supposed to be open for September 16. You'd have to have a hole in your roof to believe that.

## Athletic fees amalgamated

Students pay \$50 flat-fee

BY ADAM GILES

This summer, the Centre for Physical Education amalgamated its fees into one all-inclusive membership fee. Beginning this September the all-inclusive pass will be necessary to access the Fit Stop, fitness centre (including free-weights), and group fitness.

Programme Coordinator Louise Palmer said that the new fee translates into savings for students who use more than one area of UTM's fitness facilities. "It's not really an increase because it is a combination of fees," said Palmer. In the past, students paid many individual fees. Fitness and other classes cost

\$30 a term (or \$50 a year), the iron club cost \$35 a year, and first-year orientation cost \$15. "What we've done is amalgamated fees and made it lower so that you pay an all-inclusive \$50 a year," said Palmer.

Intramural league fees will cost extra. Students have mixed feelings about the increase.

Third-year UTM student Melanie Rennie thinks that the all-inclusive fee is an improvement. "I think it's great," said Rennie. "I like to do aerobics, cardio, and weights and I can't afford them separately."

Wayne Liu, another third-year student, who regularly uses the free-weights, said that he doesn't have the need for an all-inclusive membership. "Personally, I think

this is an unfair fees increase," said Liu. "I'm going to be downtown a lot, so I'll just workout there - it's free. The pass is still cheaper than any other place but students who want to workout here have no choice but to pay the \$50."

**"It's not really an increase because it is a combination of fees."**  
— Louise Palmer.

Programme Coordinator Andrew Bellerby said that he thinks students will see the new fee as an improvement. "On average, [the all-inclusive fee] is a reduction in fees across the board," said Bellerby. "We're hoping that people can see what they're getting for their money," he said.

Palmer defends the move by stating that "these (weight-room and intramural) fees are not unique

☞ Fees continued on page 3

### Inside:

UTM's mansion page 2

Opera Mississauga page 6



## Revised schedules ASSU's lobbying successful

BY MARK BUDGELL

Thanks to successful lobbying, refund schedules have been lengthened to give Arts and Science students more time to decide on courses this year.

Most of the lobbying against the old schedule came from the Arts and Science Student Union (ASSU), who gave significant input into the revised schedule.

Sanj Dewett, ASSU president, attributes much of the unions' success to previous councils.

The revised refund schedule gives students an extra week to receive a 75 per cent refund for full-year courses; it allows them three extra weeks to receive a fifty per cent refund. All other courses have been revised refund schedules as well.

Dewett's biggest concern with the old schedule was the number of students dropping courses after the sixth and final refundable week, but well before the February deadline in order to avoid academic penalty.

"We were concerned with students who didn't have academic reason to drop courses and were doing so for reasons other than grades," said Dewett. "We wanted

to address that."

"Ultimately students could be dropping out for a hundred different reasons, but for whatever reason we hope to have a more reasonable schedule," said Mark Overton, UTM registrar. Overton says that the change is a result of a "joint effort between students and administration." Data collection from the effort indicated to student members and administration that "across the province we had not-that-great a refund schedule," said Overton.

The revised schedule is expected to cost the university a \$304,611, according to a memorandum

from Vice-Provost Planning and Budget, Derek McDammon. Administration has planned to admit extra Arts and Science students this year to help pay for the loss.

George Altmeyer of Registrarial Services described the change as a joint student-administration venture.

"Rather than having a confrontation with ASSU we decided to sit down and find something fair for both groups," said Altmeyer. "We literally came into my office and sat at a conference table as equals and worked and decided together," said Altmeyer.

More of the same may be needed in the future; as indicated by Dewett "this is just the first phase, it isn't over."

## Record students apply to UTM

### Quality facilities, instructors attract students

BY MARK BUDGELL

UTM received a record-breaking number of high-school applications for the 1999-2000 fall session.

"Our applications have rose dramatically with a 36% overall increase in students who have chose UTM as either their first, second or third university choice," said UTM Registrar Mark Overton. "It's the highest one-year increase in applicants to UTM to date."

This means an increase of 1,800 applications from last year.

The increase was seen in all three divisions at UTM. UTM's business program experienced the largest increase, reporting 656 extra applications this year, an increase of 79 per cent over last year.

Overall, UTM received more applications from high-school students this year, than did the entire University of Toronto system.

According to Principal McNutt, recruitment efforts paid off and high-school students and their families recognized UTM's strengths. "We benefited from more students and their families recognizing our high quality of instruction, our safety and convenience, and the new facilities opening here this fall. We also gave recruitment a higher priority this year. It all seems to have paid off in a big way. We are now in the process of restructuring some programs and this will mean more opportunities for students in the future," said McNutt. "I am pleased that our community has given us such an outstanding endorsement, and taken seriously the commitment to give our students a first-rate university experience," he said.



photo/Avril Loretti

New facilities Phase Six and the Student Centre are attracting more high-school students to UTM.

According Vice President of Finance for ECSU, Andy Baghaei, students are attracted to UTM "because it is a small campus and they feel a lot easier in first-year because they know where everything is."

Most Universities across Ontario saw a similar increase in applicants; total applications have

increased by 5.7 per cent. This is the largest increase for Ontario schools in ten years.

The increase may mean a higher required average for successful UTM applicants. Ontario Universities adjust their required averages to coincide with the size and quality of the pool of students applying.

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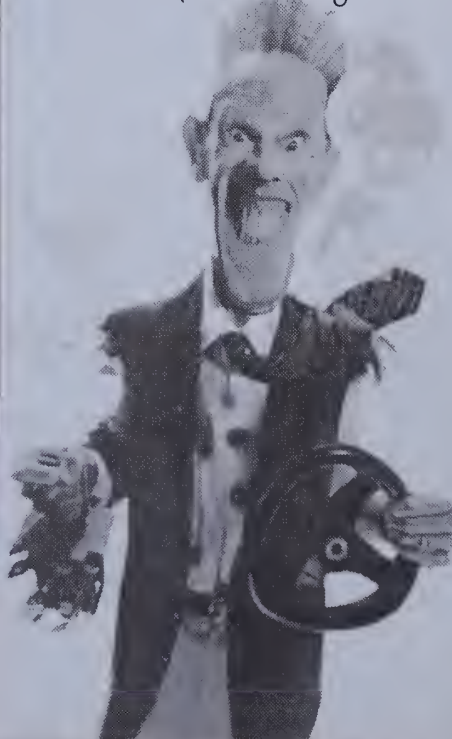
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# Ontario housing shortage

## UTM housing affordable, ample

BY MARK BUDGELL

UTM students are being spared from a housing shortage that is affecting St. George campus students and students across Ontario.

UTM Residence Director, Mike Lavelle, attributed UTM's security to the increased housing for frosh and ample off-campus housing listings.

"We've taken more freshmen into residence this year than ever before. We've tried to place every freshman," said Lavelle.

Lavelle added that the housing shortage is not a problem here, and pointed out that "there are still lots of spots left as far as we know. [Students who have not yet found housing] should come in here and we have off campus housing lists. We give them the list and all they've got to do is sit down and make a couple phone calls."

The situation downtown is quite different.

"Throughout the summer we've had someone advertising our resources to attract landlords," said Victoria Austin, an administrator at U of T's off-campus housing.

"We've never had to do that

before," she said.

Austin blamed the shortage on the removal of rent controls, and a booming economy that is attracting more people in need of housing to the downtown core.

Liberal housing critic, David Caplan, and Liberal Colleges and Universities critic, Marie Bountrogianni, make a more focused critique of the problem and its causes. They blame the Harris government and the 1998 Tenancy Protection Act that removed rent controls.

"First Waterloo, then the University of Toronto and now

**"We've had landlords calling to list a single room at a thousand dollars. We tell them it is inappropriate"**

**—Victoria Austin**

Ryerson. The government was warned during the hearings on the Tenant Protection Act that this would be a problem yet they have done nothing to prevent it," said Caplan.

"But given their track record on attacking students and tenants, it is not surprising," he said.

"Unfortunately students are being neglected by this government," said Bountrogianni. "With higher tuition and now high rent, students and their families will face an ever increasing debtload."

"I think that Mike Harris should be ashamed of his government's record on this issue," said Caplan. "Vacancy de-control and tuition increases are making it impossible for students to afford to attend school this fall. It's that simple."

Austin said that the removal of rent controls has allowed landlords to increase rates exorbitantly.

"We've had landlords calling to list a single room at a thousand dollars," said Austin. "We tell them it is inappropriate, and haven't put them on our lists."

Austin said that, despite some landlords who are attempting to take advantage of students, "we have a lot of landlords who are regulars and have come back to offer good housing, because they want to help students."

Mississauga landlord Jonathon Plens follows the same pattern.

"Raising rates that high [by two or three hundred dollars], would be crazy," said Plens.

"We're close to campus, so we get high student demand. But I think that if we raised the rent by two or three hundred dollars people would opt to live farther away from campus," he said.

Austin advised students that, although not every landlord is charging higher rates, landlords may be demanding more from students in terms of references and presentation.

"They need to apply prepared, with references ready and presentable clothing," said Austin.

# New UTM deans

## Baker, Lettieri, Crawford appointed

BY MARK BUDGELL

UTM has three new deans.

Professors Rob Baker, Michael Lettieri, and Gary Crawford have replaced deans in the sciences, humanities, and social sciences, divisions respectively.

Principal McNutt said that the new deans have excellent credentials and "solid reputations as university scholars."

He expects the new deans to build upon the accomplishments of their predecessors.

"I've had three good deans in the past," said McNutt, expressing his expectations for the new deans, "so it is a question of moving on, and building on what they've done."

McNutt pointed out that "it's not a normal practice in university to change all three deans at one time, it just happened this way. So, I've lost a lot of experience. But, because these three have been here for a number of years, know the college well, and have been very active within their divisions before, they are

very well placed to take over."

"To me they're all very personable, so I don't think that students will have any problems talking to them," said McNutt.

Les McCormick, dean of student affairs at UTM, said that all three are "definitely focused on students. I've been impressed, with their enthusiasm and open interest with students, inside and outside the classroom."

McCormick says that on a growing campus with upcoming changes in curriculum, "they are going to be critical leaders."

The new deans have diverse backgrounds.

**"I've been impressed, with their enthusiasm and open interest with students, inside and outside the classroom."**

**—Les McCormick**

Baker's background is in zoology, Lettieri's in Italian studies, and Crawford's in anthropology.

The new deans are replacing professors Ulrich Krull, from sciences, Catherine Rubincam, from humanities, and Cecil Houston, from social sciences.

Houston is now vice-principal of Instructional Development, where he will serve as a support system for instructors.

Krull has been appointed as Chair of the new Biotechnology programme.

Rubincam will return to her research.

# SAC defends corporate sponsors

Continued from page 1

porate sponsors," said Kutasi. "Corporations have been courting us because they see ample opportunity. Corporations are just there because they see a market. We're not playing them [students] to sell their souls to Bell or any other corporations," said Kutasi.



Paul Kutasi

SAC's stu-

dent fee, currently \$21.01 per student, is the lowest student society fee in Canada - a fact that Kutasi attributes to corporate sponsors like the ones present during frosh week. Without them, student fees would have to increase in order to pay the bill for events like those planned during orientation week.

According to Tsang "This Way Please" will be fueled with monetary and participation donations, and its total cost is not expected to exceed \$200 or \$300.

# Amalgamation

Continued from page 1

to this university," Palmer added. "If you look at other Ontario universities, there is generally a significant fee for entrance to the weight-room and intramurals. We elected to go with small intramural fees and that way every student pays and it doesn't target specific people."

In addition to saving some students money, Bellerby said that the amalgamation of fees will help pay for facility upgrades that will make the Centre more welcoming to all students. Bellerby said that the Centre will purchase new Universal stacks and dumbbells targeted towards the facility's female users.

"We're hoping to make the facilities a little more appealing to all our users and somewhat less

intimidating. This change will encourage everyone to use a lot of different areas of the programme," said Bellerby.

Palmer agreed that the fee is a step in the direction of equality. "It used to be a \$15 fee for an orientation and we allowed access into the weight-room free of charge. Now everyone will pay a reasonable fee rather than targeting females that do fitness (although some males also participate). We're trying to

get more males involved in fitness," said Palmer. "Everyone is going to pay a little bit and that allows us to improve our weight-room and offer the programmes that we're offering. We thought that \$50 would be affordable to students and it would allow us to operate as we have in the past."

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## EDITORIAL

## THE MEDIUM

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3359 Mississauga Rd., North Building, Room C111, Mississauga, ON, L5L 1C6

Phone: (905) 828-5260, Fax: (905) 828-5402

E-mail: medium@canada.com

Editor-in-chief • Robert Price

News Editor • Mark Budgell Arts &amp; Entertainment Editor • Richie Mehta

Photography Editor • Avril Lorette Sports Editor • Adam Giles

Features Editor • Jen Matotek Composite Editor • Cyrus Irani

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## McOrientation?

The Graduate Students' Union and community members are protesting SAC's corporate-sponsored orientation by holding their own corporation-free orientation. GSU President Paul Tsang said that they are "taking a stand." Against what? Bigger, better parties?

The organizers of the "disorientation," as some have dubbed it, have the right idea. Students should not allow corporations to claw their way into our school – it would be nice if every student were as concerned about the future of our school as GSU and community members are – but the corporation-free orientation goes too far. An orientation subsidized by a few corporations is not a realistic threat to free thought.

Some degree of corporate sponsorship is necessary. Even Chris Ramsaroop said so. Ramsaroop, last year's SAC president who is famous for his outspoken disdain for corporations, told *Now Magazine* last September that sponsorship was necessary to run SAC's orientation. "The thing is," says SAC president Chris Ramsaroop sheepishly, "if we don't have these corporations, where are we going to get the money?"

It will be interesting to see the moral cowboys' orientation in action. Tsang said that corporate-free orientation, named "This Way Please," will function like a community arts festival. Swell. But what will distinguish their orientation from every other community festival? What will be memorable about their orientation? The "bring-your-guitar-and-a-salad-or-a-dessert" orientation doesn't have any appeal, particularly when compared to SAC's pile-driving party.

SAC has always had the biggest, most elaborate, and carefully planned orientation of any student organization in the university, thanks in part to corporate sponsorship. Does that make SAC a hot nest of corporate hanky-panky? We don't think so.

Actually, we think that it would be in SAC's best interest to allow more corporate sponsorship. Last year's council chopped the number of sponsors from 27 to seven and this year's council chopped that number again. But the fewer sponsors SAC allows, the more of a monopoly five or six sponsors will have over students.

Tsang said that "advertising creates a negative learning environment." This may be so, but SAC's orientation isn't about learning, it's about having fun. SAC asked corporations to sponsor t-shirts and food, not classrooms and libraries.

The more money SAC can save on students' entertainment, the better.

## Just do it

Starting next week, our readers will notice advertisements on our front page. We know that some of our readers won't like this – some may go blind – but we didn't have an alternative.

A huge hole in our budget opened after our former advertising agency Sanctimedia Sales (headed up by the instrumental Mike Brown) exited. Our full-time student incidental fees barely cover our printing bill (part-time students don't contribute anything to *The Medium*), so advertising revenue has to cover every other expense, including production costs, production upgrades, distribution, salaries, audits, postage, and phones.

To operate this year, we out-sourced our retail advertising to *The Mississauga News's* advertising department for a one-year trial period. To ensure that *The Medium's* books balance this year we created advertising space on the front page, which brings in added revenue. When we were faced with a choice between publishing a newspaper or folding, front page advertising seemed trivial.

If our retail out-sourcing works, *The Medium* will be financially stable after years of crushing debt. Strong advertising sales for *The Medium* means that we will be able to give more back to students. This is good, even if it means advertisements on the front page.

*The Medium* is published weekly by Medium II Publications, a non-profit, incorporated student organization. The opinions expressed within are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of Medium II Publications. *The Medium's* mandate includes informing students of local and national concerns, and giving Erindale College students an opportunity to practice journalism. National advertising provided exclusively by Campus Network.

This is our first issue of the year and our last issue in the Death Star. Ain't nothing like a piss-reeling (and shrimp-reeking – thanks for the lunch, Celina) room without windows or ventilation. Last issue with Mike. Ow. We went out to McDick's for a late night snack and we saw the Hamburglar from Orillia. We tried to talk to him but he ignored us because we laughed at him. Adam and Richie went to Florida in the middle of a hurricane. Looks like we'll have some openings on the editorial board. Jenille, sorry I didn't call you into work. I lost your number. I hope you read this and call. The Wimpy burger made Mark's ulcer worse. Cyrus has got to get out of here fast – again. Jen is a trooper. It's Sunday night, 4:30 a.m. A Medium Prize to the frosh that brings us an engineer's overall.



## A recent history of UTM politics

Frosh, a lot happened last year that you should know about.

## Opinion

BY ROBERT PRICE

At its final meeting of the school year last April, the Erindale College Council (ECC) voted against improving the quality of student life for UTM students. The council rejected several recommendations proposed by the Task Force on Year One.

Council scrapped the Task Force's twenty-sixth recommendation, a plan to split all 100-series courses in half so that frosh would have greater flexibility, greater financial security, and greater variety regarding courses. Faculty, apparently unwilling to change with the times – half-year first-year courses are the norm among Canadian universities – said that any change would limit their ability to teach skills, provide feedback to students and develop relationships with students. The recommendation was narrowly defeated.

Council also turfed the Task Force's thirteenth recommendation that said: "Faculty should be encouraged to increase their availability to students by expanding their office hours, by holding office hours on more days of the week and by making more extensive use of electronic communications such as e-mail." Professor Gunter Gad asked council to vote against the recommendation because he wasn't sure what "more" meant. Professor Gordon Anderson, one of the highest paid faculty members at UTM, was so eager to vote against the pro-student recommendation that he nearly fell out of his seat.

Were these recommendations good for students? Yes. Did they impose unreasonable demands on faculty? No. ECC needs to reconsider these recommendations. If council does reconsider, will it look at the benefits for

students and vote yes? Will it consider these recommendations at a sensible time of the year (not during an exam period)? I hope so.

In 1970, Radio Erindale (recently renamed "Vibe") started "broadcasting" to Erindale students. Soon after its inception, the station hit turbulence – they didn't have a frequency or a listenership. In 1999, twenty-nine years and \$540,000 later, Radio Erindale still couldn't produce a quality audio product.

In late February, SAC considered a referendum that would allow students to redirect Radio Erindale's \$18,000 budget to a sexual education centre. SAC voted down the motion, despite the strong urgings of SAC Erindale council members who wanted the student body to decide the funding issue.

At the time, SAC Erindale directors said that they would set up a contract between SAC and Radio Erindale that would demand that Radio Erindale meet certain obligations and standards or else they would face a student vote.

Will SAC Erindale follow through with its promise? I hope so.

During last year's ECSU elections, UTM saw its first taste of party politics in recent years. The Erindale Action Party (EAP) stormed the ballot with a contender for every position. Students rejected every EAPer except two: Andy Baghaei, ECSU's vice president of finance, and Rose Oliveira, ECSU's services coordinator. Baghaei built his platform on his plan to "decrease ECSU executive salaries substantially to create additional scholarships for students." Baghaei said that if he couldn't constitutionally change ECSU's salary scale, he would donate a portion of his salary to the scholarship.

Will Baghaei do it? I hope so.

Never before has the Blind Duck had to fight so hard to stay alive. Sure there's been years when it didn't make money, but

this year it might bust.

Earlier this summer, p.c. snipers shot at the bird's name. Principal McNutt said that "The Blind Duck," might induce students to get "blind drunk," while politically correct college staff thought that the name might hurt the feelings of blind people. Needless to say, nobody could find an offended blind person and students said that they never used the name as slang for getting hammered. Despite the absurdity of the motion, members of the Student Centre management committee would have voted the historic name out of existence if ECSU hadn't put up a strong fight.

Since its relocation to the "soon-to-be-completed" Student Centre, ECSU, the keepers of the Duck, have been having a hell of a time. It seems that the Centre is behind schedule. (And don't let anybody tell you it isn't – the building was supposed to be open for September, but some workers revealed, with a laugh, that the building won't be completed until the end of September and "maybe the beginning of October." Late materials, unforeseen problems, and a lack of money – there isn't enough money to purchase all the interior decorations that would make the Centre fully functional – make the "don't-worry, it'll be open" lines hard to believe.) If the Centre, especially the Blind Duck, isn't operational for the first pub night, the make-or-break event of the year, ECSU will be in deep financial trouble. The likely possibility that the pub won't open in time, coupled with a possible raise in rent and other additional expenses could make this year a huge money-loser for ECSU.

It'll be interesting to see how much ECSU might lose this year. But will they lose "the Blind Duck"? I hope not.

**Did you violate any traffic laws this summer?**

"Yeah. 180 in a 40. My license is suspended indefinitely."

— Mark Budgell

"No, I walk. Actually, I got sun stroke from walking in the blistering heat."

Robert Price

**TALKING 'EDS**

Photos by the Province of Ontario

Letters to the editor will be edited for spelling, grammar, style, and coherence.

Letters will not exceed 500 words in print. Letters that incite hatred, violence or letters that are racist, homophobic, sexist, or libelous, will not be published. Letters reflect opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor-in-chief, other editors and staff, or *The Medium's* Board of Directors. Submission does not guarantee publication. Submission of a letter to *The Medium* presumes the writer has read, and agrees with, this Policy. Please submit letters on disk by noon Friday. Letters will not be printed unless accompanied by the author's phone number.



# WELCOME FROSH TO UTM



Welcome to *The Medium's* 1999 Orientation Issue. Inside this issue you'll find information every frosh should know: what all these acronyms mean; who your student representatives are; who your principal is; what a Blind Duck is; how to save yourself time during the next few weeks; and the truth about Erindale's many myths. Good luck this year. Have a safe and memorable orientation week.

## Make your years at UTM the best of your life

As an Erindale student, you will eventually experience the pain of being 'shafted.' The most painful shafts recorded to date are delivered by the faceless, enigmatic, University of Toronto.

This institution shafts its students because it intuitively understands how the university student strives for long-term per-

sonal and academic success. The institution must obtain power over the student before he or she can be 'shafted.'

*continued on page 2*

### ORIENTATION 99

#### Join the Cheer!

We are the frosh of UTM!  
Shake my hand, I'll shake my fist,  
And growl at the rest  
Because we're better than them!  
I said at who? I said at you!  
Now give me a "U"!

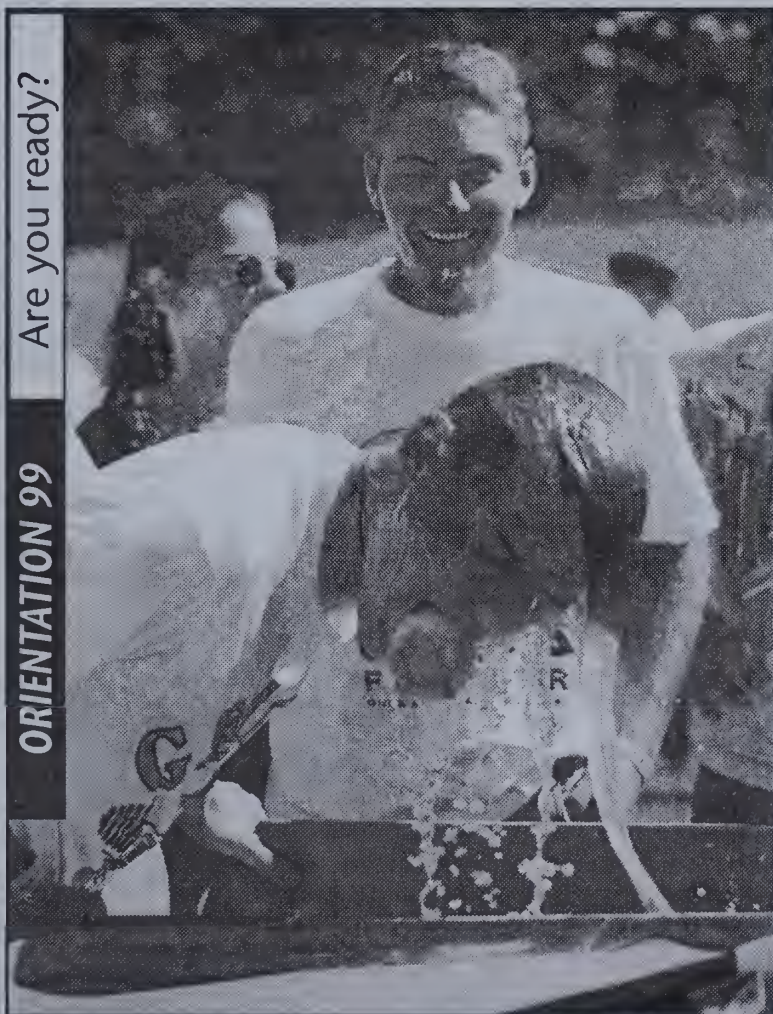
New? We've seen better shoes on Gnus.  
And Scarborough, Scarborough,  
What a shame,  
Ain't much better than the mess called Innis.  
And the kids at UC need to shave  
the fur off their teeth!  
Did I say please! No!  
Give me a "T"!

Wordsworth, Trinity, St. Mike's and Old Vic  
Sound slick, but we dislike their goatee-loving,  
Unfriendly freedom-fighting egos.  
Oh so chic!  
What do we call them? Whiners!  
Now give me an "M"!

U chicka-ticka-boom!  
T chicka-ticka-boom!  
M ticka-chicka-ricka-rocka-boom-boom!  
UTM! UTM! UTM!

Are you ready?

ORIENTATION 99



### ORIENTATION 99

#### Go UTM Go!



Frosh fact: The UTM biotech program is developing "garlic mushrooms"

# Avoid getting shafted at UTM...

continued from Orientation '99, page 1

**SHAFT:** a. an event in which the individual is unfairly driven into a powerless position by a superior force. In the case of the individual attending a post-secondary institution, the shafted party is required to pay fees and wait in endless lines in order to procure basic services.

## TIP #1: Organize and prioritize...

In university, good organizational skills are paramount, and these extend to your academic and private life. When you have a limited amount of time, prioritize by deciding who you truly want to include in your life, and who is better left by the wayside. Accept that some of your fellow students are creepy losers who

are secretly out to get a piece of ass.

Save time by working in study groups, where each individual investigates a segment of a given task or material to share with other group members. The amount of time and effort you put into a project should reflect what percentage of your final mark the project is worth. Don't be afraid to ask professors lots of questions or visit them during their office hours to determine what they expect from a major term project, lab or essay. Take excellent lecture notes so that you can identify which readings are important, and which ones can be skipped. Conversely, if you are failing a course and don't under-

stand the course material despite your best efforts and the assistance of a tutor - know when to quit. Dropping courses sounds scary, but doing it sooner rather than later saves time and energy in the long term.

The most valuable lesson you can learn at university is how to weed through bullshit to deduce the essential arguments and information in readings and lectures. This is not to say that academics are unimportant, or that true success in university is achieved when one expends a negligible amount of effort to receive an average mark. Organize and prioritize aspects of your life so that you may find balance.

The University of Toronto harms its prey in a vulnerable area: the pocketbook. The institution then destroys its victim's most valuable commodity: time. You can get a loan at the bank for your tuition, but you can't buy an extra day to write a term paper. Here are a few tips to help you conserve your most valuable resource.

## TIP #2: Avoid standing in line...

**At Registrarial and Counselling Services:** To register for your courses, contact the Repository of Student Information (our phallic little friend, ROSI) at (416) 872-7674, or visit the web at [www.rosi.utoronto.ca](http://www.rosi.utoronto.ca). In general, Registrarial Services is busiest between 11:30 and 1:30, and every hour roughly on the hour. A few days previous to any major drop dates or course refund deadlines, expect a startling similarity to the lineup for Disneyland's Space Mountain. (Don't lose your copy of the Fall 1999-Winter 2000 UTM Registration Guide & Course Timetable because the important dates are located there.) Warning: do not "butt" into this line. People who wait in line at Registrarial Services are notoriously cranky.

**At the Bookstore:** The beauty of the UTM bookstore is that it is possible to avoid it. Many students have survived - even aced courses - without reading any required course materials. Scout the ECSU bulletin boards in the North and South Buildings for deals on used textbooks. If you must enter the bookstore during the month of September, go early in the morning, during the supper hour or later at night during the store's extended hours. Avoid going to the bookstore during the lunch hour and afternoon. Beware: the bookstore is notoriously incompetent at handling book orders. Many students share sob stories about textbooks that were reportedly "on their way" when they were never actually ordered in the first place. Quality service should be demanded from a place that forces us to squander hundreds of dollars.

**At UTM Computing Services:** If you can live without a student account, then do so. But you may need a login ID eventually, particularly if any of your courses have a computer lab component. If all you care about is getting your own e-mail address, do what millions have done before you and tell Bill Gates your annual income and postal code @ hot-mail.com. Computer labs at Erindale are congested all day, Monday to Thursday. There are fewer people in the computer labs on Fridays, week-day evenings and weekends.

**At the Pub:** It's hard to predict how busy the new pub will be with its relocation to the Student Center. First pub of the year and the last pub of the year have deadly lines. In the past, the Blind Duck Pub had the longest lines between 11 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. Traditionally, the Duck is quiet during the months of November and February, while capacity crowds enjoy good mead and company throughout September, January and March. Going to the pub during earlier hours can be fun thanks to an enjoyable variety of arcade games, air hockey and pool tables. If you really want to beat the lines, stop by the pub for a drink between classes - it will make the following lecture far more tolerable, guaranteed - even if you won't remember anything your professor says.

## TIP #3: Do several things at once while showering...

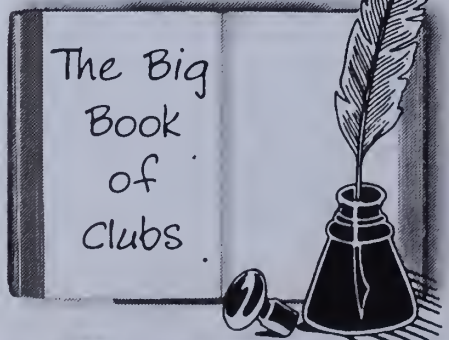
Try completing all of your morning ablutions in the shower: brushing your teeth, shaving, watching television, talking on the phone, eating, reading *The Medium*. Some might even recommend peeing or masturbating.

Take Anne Heche. She single-tasked and dillydallied during her shower in the movie *Psycho*.

Remember what happened to her? Morning time is precious time. Don't waste it.

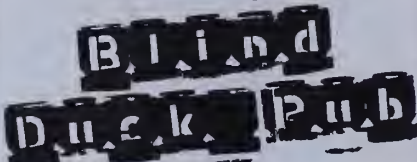
## CLUBS Week! SEPTEMBER 20 - 24

Find out more about UTM's clubs by picking up a copy of **The Big Book of Clubs** at ECSU.



## Come visit us in our New Office!

ECSU is located on the north side of the Student Centre in Room 100. Watch for the opening of the new & improved



## LOCKER SALES



ECSU is open for locker sales only on **September 13 & 14**. Sept. 13 - selling main floor of the South Building ONLY.

• Please note the floor and a range of locker numbers; otherwise, you will be randomly assigned a locker.



## Erindale myths... Busted!

**Myth:** Smoking was once permitted in UTM classrooms.

**Fact:** During the late sixties, smoking during lectures was permitted at Erindale. Drinking during lectures was never permitted, so alcohol was consumed on the front stoop of Thomas Cottage, but you can't anymore.

**Myth:** Only dumb people use UTM's Academic Skills Centre.

**Fact:** The Centre is designed to help students, as well as professors and teaching assistants. To make an appointment, drop by their office or call the ASC at 828-3858. The Skills Centre will not recommend sleeping with your professors in order to achieve academic success.

**Myth:** The AccessAbility Resource Centre assigns monkeys to help students with permanent or temporary disabilities.

**Fact:** Sadly, AccessAbility does not circulate monkeys. Rather, Erindale students assist permanent or temporarily disabled peers by offering note-taking services, a resource library, and professional referrals within the college and the community. For more information, call 828-5406.

**Myth:** Health Services is a second-rate pharmacy.

**Fact:** Health Services offers quality health care, emotional support, and health education to all UTM students. Students can call 828-5255 to make an appointment, or may be accommodated on a drop in basis when possible.

**Myth:** The Forensics department stores corpses in the North Building.

**Fact:** Skeletal remains are stored throughout Forensics lab and lecture rooms. Fortunately, rotting corpses cannot be found in the North or South buildings.

**Myth:** Marijuana is grown in the greenhouse atop the South Building.

**Fact:** Illegal drugs are not supposed to be grown anywhere in Ontario. But only Erindale's Biology department knows for sure. We know they've got mushrooms...

**Myth:** The Campus Police were established to monitor alcohol consumption on campus. They are also proficient at writing parking tickets.

**Fact:** While our Campus Police spend much of their time writing parking tickets, they strive for accountability and accessibility. They try to encourage students to think proactively.

**Myth:** Principal Robert McNutt's home, Lislehurst, was once a brothel frequented by soldiers during the War of 1812.

**Fact:** Lislehurst has existed on campus for over a hundred years, but has never been used as a den of sin (as far as we know). It was built by a son of Weymouth George Shreiber, and named after the sons' aunt Louisa Delisle.

**Myth:** Underground tunnels between the North and South Buildings are used to transport plutonium to a small, test-nuclear reactor located on the UTM campus.

**Fact:** An underground tunnel, located beneath parking lot three, connects the South Building to the Physical Plant. If you dare to venture into the underground tunnel, you could be ticketed for trespassing and included in *The Medium's* infamous 'Natty News Bits'.  
-Jennifer Matotek



## All I ever needed to know, I learned as a frosh

"Turn off your cell phone or pager before any lecture or exam. And if you must use your cellular in a public place on the UTM campus, don't turn it into a fantastic visual extravaganza."

"Alcohol is the truest, most reliable companion you will ever have-until you wake up the next morning."

"Do not attempt to complete any form of academic work in an area which reeks of bodily fluid. Specifically, urine - so keep living and working spaces clean."

"No matter how dire your economic circumstances may be, do not attempt to hunt the fauna located on campus. Try the eating establishments located in the Students Center, North or South Buildings instead. Or follow to the wise words of David Tsubouchi and buy dented cans."

"Don't get lost downtown during frosh week. If you do go downtown, don't wear or carry anything that will identify you as a UTM student, or your scrotum will be taken. And sauteed lightly with acorn."

## Check out UTM Athletics

### Facilities

Outdoor tennis courts, North and South football/soccer fields, a softball field, and a sand-filled beach volleyball court are free for to all students. All-inclusive fitness passes for UTM's Fitness Centre, Fit Stop, or Weightlifting rooms are sold in room 1114 of the South Building. Instructional classes such as Tai Chi, Yoga, ballet, jazz, swing, Latin dancing, are also offered by The Centre for Physical Education.

### Sports

UTM's intramural programme offers men and women the chance to play ball hockey, basketball, flag football, indoor and outdoor soccer, softball, and volleyball.

In the interfaculty programme, selected UTM students compete against teams from other U of T colleges and faculties.

The co-ed recreational programme is designed for students to participate in sports on a casual level.

For more information, pick up the 1999 Athletic and Recreation Activity Guide at the Athletics office, or contact The Centre at (905) 828-5269.

- Adam Giles

Now with two locations  
(hope this won't affect your studies)

DICK'S GRILLE & VINE CO.  
MISSISSAUGA  
Sussex Centre  
2nd Floor  
Burnhamthorpe Road,  
west of Hurontario Street  
Tel: (905) 949-1115



DICK'S GRILLE & VINE CO.  
OAKVILLE  
Oakville Entertainment Centrum  
Winston Churchill Blvd  
north of Q.E.W.  
outside AMC Movie Theatre  
Tel: (905) 879-9370

## THE BIG NIGHTS

(COME EARLY AND THE ONLY THING YOU'LL MISS IS THE LINE-UP)

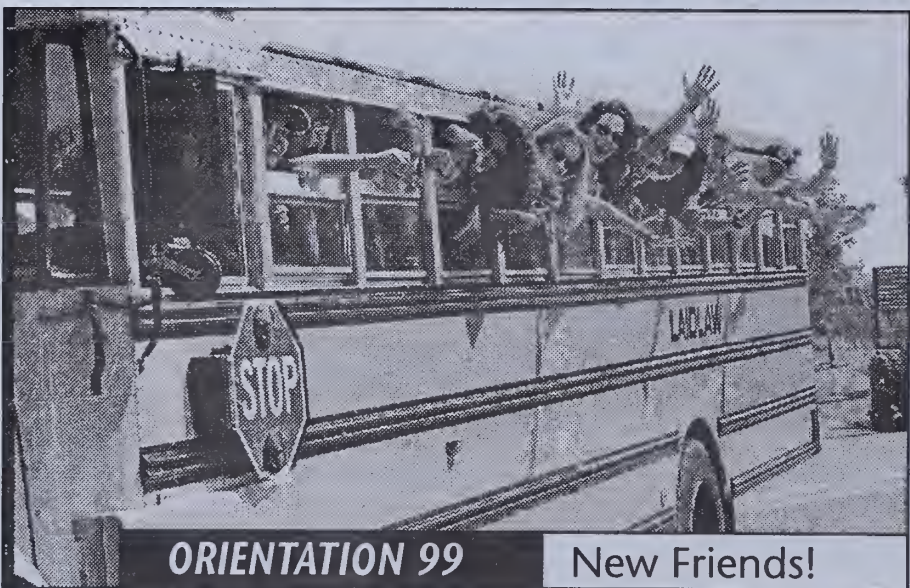
WEDNESDAY LADIES NIGHT w/ DJ ..... DICK'S GRILLE & VINE CO. - MISSISSAUGA  
THURSDAY LADIES NIGHT w/ DJ ..... DICK'S GRILLE & VINE CO. - OAKVILLE  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT - w/ LIVE BAND/DJ COMBO ..... BOTH LOCATIONS  
SUNDAY RETRO NIGHT w/ DJ ..... DICK'S GRILLE & VINE CO. - OAKVILLE

welcome back... have a great year!

Frosh fact: U of T's easternmost campus is called "Scarberia"

## ORIENTATION 99

## Get Dirty!



## ORIENTATION 99

## New Friends!

## Do's and don'ts every frosh should know

**DO** take good notes in class.  
**DON'T** get behind in your readings.

**DO** wear comfortable clothes during frosh week.

**DON'T** dress for school the same way you would to go clubbing.

**DO** get involved in campus life by joining clubs and organizations, going to Pub, working in study groups, and attending lectures by guest speakers.

**DON'T** overexert yourself by joining EVERY club, EVERY organization or participating in EVERY activity. It will make you look like a no-life keener, who only does things that will look good a law school application.

**DO** be politically active and have the integrity to stand up for what you believe in because university is the perfect outlet for passionate protest.

**DON'T** be afraid to write for *The Medium*. We like our writers and treat them with care, respect, and dignity (most of the time) – plus, you can get cool, free stuff!

**DO** realize that you are attending university to benefit yourself.

**DON'T** ever assume that the university is there for you, keeping your best interests at the heart of every decision they make.

**Are you confused about who's who and what's what?** If you are, here's a page from the UTM dictionary (Erindale Standard edition).

**AccessAbility** \ak-ses-e-bil-et-e\ *n* 1: provides services to permanent or temporarily disabled students 2: promotes disability awareness 3: phone 828-5406

**Blind Duck** \blind\dek\ *n* 1: a nearly extinct bird of Mississauga that inhabits waterless uplands and feeds on berries and vegetation 2: an establishment where alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed 3: pub nights – Thursday 4: slang (1950) "getting smashed"

**Bookstore** \buk-sto(e)r\ *n* 1: place of business in South Building where course books are sold – usu. considered overpriced

**Campus Police** \camp-puss-pole-eece\ *n* 1: information – 828-5200, emergency – 569-4333 2: long arm of the law, community builders 3: nice guys

**Dons** \dons\ *n* 1: students who work for UTM Residence 2: conduct housechecks, host social events 3: resource for residence students 4: student advocates 5: Head Don Christina Hosein

**ECC** \ee-see-see\ *n* 1: Erindale College Council 2: highest decision-making body at UTM 3: meets monthly 3: open to public, students have voting rights

**ECSU** \ecch\sue\ *n* 1: Erindale College Student Union 2: phone: 828-5249 3: a group that defends or maintains a cause or proposal for full-time students of Erindale 4: hosts social events 5: maintains or cares for the Blind Duck 6: President Laurie Schirripa, Vice President of Finance Andy Baghaei, Vice President of Administration Preena Chauhan, Special Projects Director Steve Pontet, Clubs Coordinator Grace Subrata, Services Coordinator Rose Oliveira, College Affairs Commissioner Lisa Capobianco, Advertising Director Carmen Ali, Office Manager Melanie Abbot 7: free local faxing, cheap photocopying, bulletin board advertising 8: located in the Student Centre, ground floor 9: slang – Erindale College Social Union, usu. considered insulting to council members.

**EPUS** \eeep-pus\ *n* [formerly PTS@UTM (pee-tee-ess-at-yu-tee-em), formerly EPUS (eeep-pus)] 1: Part-time Students at the University of Toronto at Mississauga 2: a group that defends or maintains a cause or proposal for part-time students 3: President Jennifer O'Sullivan, Vice President Tina Ng, Treasurer Delano DeSilva, Secretary Simeen Ali Khan

**McNutt** (Robert) \mick-knutt\ *n* 1: Principal of UTM 2: geologist

**Medium, The** \med-e-um\ *v* 1: the voice of the UTM 2: student newspaper 3: phone 828-5260, e-mail medium@canada.com

**Q.S.S.** \kueless\ *n* 1: Quality Service to Students 2: an organization of student leaders, students, student services staff and faculty who discuss student issues 3: chaired by Les McCormick, Dean of Student Affairs (828-3872)

**SAC** \sack\ *n* 1: Students' Administrative Council 2: a group that defends or maintains a cause or proposal for full-time students across the U of T 3: offers comprehensive health and dental plan 4: President Matt Lenner, Vice President Paul Kutasi – **SAC Erindale** \sack\air-ren-dale\ *n* 1: Erindale representatives on the Students' Administrative Council 2: tiny office 3: cheap photocopying, faxing and laser printing 4: 828-5494 5: SAC Erindale Chair Anwar Ahmed

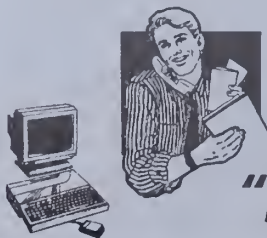
**UTM** \yu-tee-em\ *n* 1: University of Toronto at Mississauga 2: Erindale College < "Urindale" – usu. considered insulting, often heard during frosh week > 3: the western campus of the University of Toronto 4: where it's at

**We need volunteers and we need them bad.**

Call us. Please.

**828-5260**

THE MEDIUM



"Dynamic!"

"Amazing!"

"Exciting!"



"A non-stop thrill ride!"

"A rip-rollicking good time!"

**"I couldn't stop laughing!"**

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

Unparalleled richness *Star Wars'* driving force

BY RICHIE MEHTA

Anticipation ran high and tempers flared. Everyone wanted to be the first in the theatre. Everyone wanted the best seat. Of course, everyone's best seats were different, but that is besides the point. It was 11:30pm on May 18, and black shirted ushers let the first groups of people into the theatre for the first public screening of *Star Wars Episode I: the Phantom Menace*.

Nothing mattered, except the film. Not the 15 hour wait, not the rain, not the angry fans. Cable 10 Mississauga even immortalized our spot at the front of that prestigious line. Finally, it was time.

But did the film deliver?

If Mr. Lucas filmed a piece of turtle excrement for two and a half hours, *Star Wars* junkies would love it. But Lucas went one step further and gave fans another epic. A *Star Wars* epic, no less. Sure it had problems, but in the end who cares?

The story, for those who don't know (and we will find you) follows a young Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor), and Qui-Gon Jinn (Liam Neeson), two Jedi Knights who try to settle a trade dispute between the peaceful planet Naboo, and the somewhat hostile Trade Federation. During their adventures, Kenobi and Jinn encounter Queen Amidala of Naboo (a beautifully dressed Natalie Portman) and a young boy

named Anakin Skywalker (Jake Lloyd), who may or may not be the chosen one who will bring balance to the force. Present in the shadows are two shady characters named Darth Sidious, who seems to control the Trade Federation, and Senator Palpatine, Naboo's representative in the Imperial Senate who we all know as *Return of the Jedi's* evil Emperor Palpatine.

Am I speaking English? If you understood all of this, chances are you appreciate what *Episode I* has to offer and can't wait for *Episode II*. If you didn't, you probably don't care about *Star Wars* and thought the film was an extension of the Hollywood money-making machine.

To *Star Wars'* critics, you are incor-



**Star Wars brainchild George Lucas and Ian McDiarmid (Senator Palpatine—who'll have a much more prominent role in the future Episodes), stare at something important.**

princesses, and pirates and great action sequences. There are some low points (Ewoks, and a new character who shall remain nameless), but the high points (the jaw-dropping pod-race sequence, the Imperial Walker attack, the Death Star II assault, the images of Coruscant) make *Star Wars* the world's most popular films.

The special effects are unmatched and the universe to which they belong is familiar and well thought out. *Star Wars* reached the highest level any fantasy can

hope to take an audience because one's disbelief is suspended to such a great extent.

Many people can't comprehend why *Star Wars* fans are so enthralled by these films? It's not because we think *Star Wars* is real, but because we want it to be real. Fast ships, faster bikes, laser-swords, heroism and uncompromising evil, rogues and rebels—it's the romantic's ultimate dream world, and it's accessible to anyone who wants to go. On Mr. Lucas' conditions, of course.

On a fantasy narrative level, no film can come close to that level of influence. As well, going further into the film—the production aspects, no film could ever touch a *Star Wars* film, and *Episode I* is no exception. The visuals are without a doubt the most complex ever filmed, and are often so wonderfully realized one is left awe-struck. The sprawling metropolis of the Imperial City, for example, and the race sequence, are among the most astounding things I've ever seen in a film, as is the final lightsaber fight, almost too fast for the eye to catch up to.

Sure, as a film, it has weaknesses with some characters. I think a lot of problems could have been eliminated if subtitles translated the exotic creatures' exotic languages, but who am I, really? Despite its weaknesses, *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace*, as it fits into this unfinished epic, has its place as the beginning of the greatest story ever told.



**The show-stopping podrace sequence of Episode I is probably the greatest race sequence ever filmed.**

rect. The characters and storylines in *Star Wars* are so rich and vast that one cannot expect to appreciate what *Episode I* offers if they don't care (or

don't remember) what the other episode's gave us.

*Star Wars* is one incomplete 15 hour myth, ripe with sorcerers, knights, lords,

## Composer John Williams chooses the darker path

## CD/REVIEWS

BY RICHIE MEHTA

John Williams

*Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace Soundtrack*  
(Sony Classical)

It is expected that with a new *Star Wars* film comes a new John Williams soundtrack. The original *Star Wars* soundtracks, all of which were recently re-released and have a running time of two and a half hours each, were landmark score soundtracks. They not only had recognizable themes, but also such moments of subtlety and variation that, like the films, they were immortalized. How then, could Williams top himself? He can't. But he does deliver a great album.



The opening title, which contains the well known *Star Wars* theme, fades into oblivion as the new score begins. The difference at the start of this CD is that two of the main tracks, "Duel of the Fates," (Darth Maul's theme), and "Anakin's theme," sound like singles, and that takes away from the continuity of the score slightly. However, "Duel" is unlike anything Williams has written before, with a faster pace, set by a scurrying string accompaniment, and more prominent vocals (sung in ancient Sanskrit). Where "Imperial March" had a menacing, military mood to it, this piece is more impos-

ing, evil, and mystical. Also, unlike the "March," this piece isn't noticeable the first time. Only after repeated listens can one appreciate it.

"Anakin's theme," similar to the gentle mood of Princess Leia's theme in "A New Hope," at first sounds a little too benign, but suits the character of Anakin, especially at the end of the piece, when Williams incorporates a trace of Darth Vader's "Imperial March."

The rest of the score, which acts more as background accompaniment than the other scores, is not very evident in the film. There are few great moments, such as "The Flag Parade," before the pod-race, that echo Miklos Rozsa's epic *Ben-Hur* score, or "Queen Amidala," where "Anakin's theme" is reworked beautifully, and then fades into a new Coruscant theme, when Senator Palpatine is first seen on the docking platform. These moments suggest the epic level of *Star Wars* to the listener, and one is reminded of Williams' ability to incorporate into his music large-scale grandeur with gentle and persuasive moments.

The conclusion of the CD returns to more familiar territory, with several themes such as "The Imperial March," to suggest Anakin's destiny, "Yoda's theme," and a fitting vocal ballad for "Qui-Gon's funeral" (which also has "Obi-Wan Kenobi's theme" from *A New Hope*). The final celebration, another vocal piece that features children, is reminiscent of the *Return of the Jedi Special Edition* celebration. With its uplifting rhythm and blend of voices it is one of the more exotic pieces on the soundtrack; this is all the more effective because, unlike *Return of the Jedi*, one knows the galaxy is about to go to hell in *Episode II*, after this celebration.

Williams hasn't topped himself with this work, and wasn't trying to. These new films have taken on a different tone, and his score reflects that. No one could have done it better, and for *Episodes II and III*, nobody will.

## Summer CDs show off best of the best

**Various Artists**  
**On My Radio: top hits of the 50s-90s**  
(EMI)

This five-CD set is one of the better compilations that one will find. Each CD has radio hits from the past five decades, and unless you've been living in the Arctic, you've probably heard most, if not all, of these songs. (Although the 1950s disc has some strange ones!)

The 50s CD, which will have your grandfather saying "I remember that song!" offers classics such as Nat King Cole, Ray Anthony's "Dragnet," Dean Martin's "That's Amore" (Yup, you too can own this track!), and Les Baxter and his Orchestra's original "Unchained Melody."

Many may view this CD as a joke and laugh at how dated these songs are, but remember, these songs were cool once too.

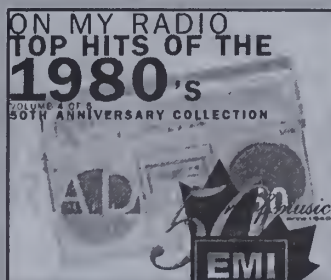
The 60s CD, which includes gems such as Manfred Mann's "Do Wah Diddy Diddy," Shirley Bassey's "Goldfinger," and Anne Murray's "Snowbird," is a little thin on quality. One may ask, where are the Jimi Hendrix, The Doors, and Led Zeppelin tracks? Remember, this is EMI music only. You may be better off finding a more comprehensive compilation such as the *Forrest Gump* soundtrack, if The Doors is what you want.

Entering the 70s, we begin to recognize more of the tunes, from Don McLean's "American Pie" and Grand Funk Railroad's "The Loco-Motion," to Sweet's "Ballroom Blitz," and Steve Miller's "Rock 'n Me." These hit a little closer to home, and some might even call this CD "cool." The

absolute highlight comes with The Knack's "My Sharona," one of the highlights of the entire set.

The 80s and 90s—the stuff we grew up with—are where the nostalgia truly sets in, and it is with these CDs that one can see the purpose of the set.

On the 80s disc is Kim Carnes' "Betty Davis Eyes," David Bowie's "Let's Dance," J. Geil's Band's "Centerfold," Duran Duran's "Hungry like the Wolf," Tina Turner's "What's Love Got to do with it," Glass Tiger's "Don't Forget Me," and Roxette's "The Look." It's a great mix of radio hits, if you're into the Mix 99.9 stuff. If you must choose one CD out of the set, the 80s CD is it. It even has Bobby McFerrin's "Don't Worry be Happy." (And no, he didn't commit suicide.)



The 90s has more laughs than any of the other CDs, with Vanilla Ice, Technologic, and M.C. Hammer contributing their hits "Ice Ice Baby," "Move this," and "Can't touch this." However, it does get serious with Sarah McLachlan's "Into the Fire," Moist's "Push," and the Spice Girl's "Wannabe" (okay, somewhat serious). Most listeners will look fondly on the hits of the early 90s, and scorn the selections from the recent years (The Moffats?!), but that's the nature of regression. Some memories we

recall fondly, and some painfully. Such is the case with this music.



**Lenny Kravitz**  
**5**  
(Virgin)

The re-release of Lenny Kravitz' 5 may seem like a scheme to make die-hards pay more for only two new tracks (why not simply put them on another album, or on a separate single release?). However, if the re-release exposes more people to this already great album, so be it. The two new additions, "American Woman," from the *Austin Powers 2* soundtrack, and "Without You," add to his already exceptional compilation. Kravitz' "American Woman" cover, in particular, features Lenny at his finest.

**Interstellar Force**  
**Star Wars theme**  
(EMI)

In an attempt to milk off of *Episode I*, EMI has re-released its original 1977 mix of the *Star Wars* theme. For those who haven't heard it, it's a disco mix of John Williams' original theme. Yes, it is painful. Stay away from it; it's funny for about six seconds, and unless you get it for 25 cents at a garage sale, it can't be worth the price you pay for it. Scratch that, five cents at a garage sale.

- Richie Mehta

# Summer showcases Toronto's musical scene

## It's over now; the music of the night

After 10 years, 4,769 chandeliers drop, and dozens of different Phantoms, the time has come to end the historic musical, *The Phantom of the Opera*. Since 1989, the Pantages theatre in Toronto has been home to the city's longest running musical, and for most people, it's not a question of whether or not they've seen the show, but how many times.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's sensational musical based on Gaston Leroux's novel is arguably the most popular musical ever, and has helped build Toronto's entertainment character.

Since the show began in 1989, directed by musical legend Harold Prince in a beautifully restored Pantages theatre, it has received nothing but praise from critics and audiences. And why not? The

music is graceful and elegant enough to attract even hard-rock fans (this was proven when KISS's Paul Stanley donned the Phantom mask in June, and will once again in October for its final shows), and the storyline is tragic enough to entrance the audience. Even the famous special effects still astound audiences.

As a part of these final performances, Livent Inc., the show's producer, brought in a slew of guest Phantoms (Stanley being one), and for this last month, chose Canadian Jeff Hyslop for the role. Hyslop, who played the Phantom in the Canadian Touring Company's *Phantom of the Opera* in 1992, fit the role perfectly, echoing the vocals of Michael Crawford's original Phantom in London. Combining his talents for dance and his booming voice, Hyslop was commanding yet subtle enough to invoke fear and pity. Even the role of Christine Daaé, played by Kimilee Bryant, (on some nights—and regularly by

### THEATRE/REVIEWS

BY RICHIE MEHTA



photo/Livent

Jeff Hyslop as the Phantom.

Melissa Dye), was handled elegantly, as proven by Bryant's glass shattering range and compelling stage presence. The only minor

problem with this latest performance was Laird Mackintosh's take on the heroic Raoul, Christine's aristocratic love interest. His performance, although energetic and precise, did not capture Raoul's arrogant, macho, and boyish charm. Or maybe it was the Ace Ventura hairstyle that threw everything off.

Petty issues aside, the production was as alive and moving today as it was a decade ago (sure, I was only 11, but it was memorable).

Many moments in *The Phantom of the Opera* are a part of musical theatre legend, such as Raoul and Christine's tender moment on the Opera rooftop in "All I ask of you," while the Phantom eavesdrops in the gargoyle statue above the audience. Here, we see for the first time how wounded the Phantom is. Also memorable is the opening of the second act, "Masquerade," a costume party on a giant staircase that features a great dance number. Or the heart-stopping climax, when the

*Phantom* releases Christine after they kiss, only to realize that he must spend an eternity alone. The masterful orchestrations of this scene, which bring together the songs "Masquerade," "All I ask of you," and the show-stopper, "Music of the Night," in the Phantom's final soliloquy, end the show on a tragic and mellow mood. One is reminded of how a perfect musical note, or a perfect dance step can move another. Even the last moments, when the Phantom hides under a sheet, and disappears under his trademark mask, will always have me baffled and in awe. But the nature of the show is to evoke awe, and few people have left the Pantages Theatre without that feeling.

*The Phantom of the Opera* will always stand as the benchmark for musical theatre in Toronto, and it will be missed, but never forgotten.

The final performance for *The Phantom of the Opera* will be October 31, 1999.

## Opera Mississauga does it again with *La Boheme*



The main town is just one of the elaborate sets for *La Boheme*.

With the success of *Opera Stars* last March, Opera Mississauga proved itself to be a company that could accurately stage great works of the past. This summer, however, *Opera Stars* was outdone with the presentation of *La Boheme*. Opera Mississauga utilized their best talent on and off stage for Puccini's classic, which was first performed in Italy in 1896.

This prestigious opera, second only to Verdi's *Aida*, (which may be coming to Skydome in the near future) centers around the trials and tribulations of four artists: Rodolfo the poet (Cesare Zamparino), Marcello the painter (Seong Hyun Chun), Schaunard the musician (Robert de Vrij), and Colline the philosopher (Alex Fleuriu Chateau). The Opera opens with Rodolfo and Marcello in their apartment, burning pages of Rodolfo's latest

work for heat. Enter Schaunard and Colline, bringing money and food for everyone. As they go to the local café to celebrate, Rodolfo stays behind to write and ends up meeting Mimi, their neighbor. They are taken with each other, and fall instantly in love.

Over the next few months, the relationship between Rodolfo and Mimi deteriorates through jealousy and circumstance (they have no money), and this problem is carried out to the end.

This tragedy may not seem like a masterpiece of literature and poetry by modern standards, but the wonderful music, powerful voices, and impressive set pieces reaffirm *La Boheme*'s status as a classic. The set for the main town, for instance, showcases set designer Robert Little's talent, as it is both intimate, and overwhelming, ultimately capturing the romantic essence of Paris at the turn of the century.

The performances are all noteworthy, but De Vrij (as Schaunard) manages to steal the attention as he did in *Opera Stars*. His flare for the dramatic, and his over-emphasized gestures, work perfectly with opera, which is an exaggerated forum in itself.

Opera Mississauga's next show, Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, runs from October 6 through October 9.

Although most of the student population would find itself going to the more accessible movies or musicals the city has to offer, it would be in everyone's best interest to treat themselves, at least once, to the delights that Opera Mississauga has to offer—if for no other reason than to say that you've had "an authentic opera experience." And if it's an Opera Mississauga production, chances are it's an authentic, and wonderful, opera experience.

## Fame: The Musical still going strong

Last November, I was fortunate enough to see *Fame: The Musical*, as it began its North American tour in Toronto. Once again, the gods (or David and Ed Mirvish) smiled on Toronto and brought *Fame* back for a very limited run. The big change this time was location, as it has moved from the Royal Alexandra theatre to the Princess of Wales.

The well known story of a group of talented dancers, musicians, and actors coping with the harsh realities of their respective areas of study, was depicted in a motion picture, television series, and musical. Of all these mediums, the latter is best suited to the material, because the story is somewhat clichéd and melodramatic. It serves as the perfect skeleton for the musical numbers. What drives *Fame* is the exuberance of the performances. Once again, Dwayne Chattman (who

plays Tyrone Jackson) is the driving force of the show. As he does his back flips and leads the many dance numbers, the audience is reminded that the show is not merely *about* a group of youngsters who want to be the best, but also a show that features youngsters who *are* the best. Also noteworthy are Carl Tramon (Schlomo) and Amy Ehrlich (Lambchops), two people who haven't lost their edge in this tour.

Hailing from around the world, the entire ensemble has the energy to back up the message of *Fame*; that is, if you are passionate about your dream, go for it. You will make it, because you're young, you have the passion, and you're going to live forever. This idealistic message may not hold true in the real world, but on the Princess of Wales stage, it makes for one fine evening of song and dance.



photo/Mirvish Productions

Once again, the youngster of *Fame* grace Toronto with their energy and drive for success.



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## SPORTS

# McGerrigle wins gold at Pan-Am Games

## UTM student tops the world in women's weightlifting

When you walk from class to class, talking with your friends about your sports heroes' latest accomplishments, you may not realize how close you are to a world-class athlete. That world-class athlete is UTM student Miel McGerrigle.

### Faces of UTM

BY ADAM GILES

Earlier this summer at the Pan-Am Games, McGerrigle won a gold medal for Canada in women's weightlifting. McGerrigle, who had a combined lift of 195kg, 85kg in the snatch and 110kg in the clean and jerk, won by a healthy margin in the 63kg event. Maria Diaz Perea of Colombia won the silver with a total lift of 187.5kg and Sencion Quezada of the Dominican Republic won the bronze with a 182.5kg total lift.

"This was my biggest win in an international competition," said McGerrigle. She said that it was a big win because it came in front of a global, as well as Canadian, audience. Canada holds only a few international competitions, so she has few opportunities to perform in front of the home crowd. "And my parents were in the audience, which made it that much better," added McGerrigle.

McGerrigle had the crowd's support, so she didn't want to disappoint them. "I was really excited and really nervous," she said. In the end everything worked out; McGerrigle topped the world in the event and the home crowd proudly waved the Canadian flag. "It was a really good experience," she said.

Even though she's the champion, she completely respects her competitors. "I was the favourite going into the event, but I did not underestimate my competition; that's the worst thing you can do," McGerrigle said. "I was impressed with my

competitors and the noticeable improvement in women's weightlifting in the Western Hemisphere."

McGerrigle got her start in weightlifting when her current coach Peter MacDowell suggested that she could make it to the Olympics. She credits her 10 years of gymnastics, for her success in weightlifting. "Since I did gymnastics first, I was already coordinated and strong," she said.

While working on a French specialist degree here at UTM, McGerrigle finds time to enjoy women's ball hockey. "But I don't really have time to get involved in many other athletics because my training takes up a lot of my time," she said. McGerrigle, who resides in Vancouver when not at school, trains at UTM's world-class Olympic Weightlifting Facility, which she thinks is top notch. "That's the reason I came here. I followed my coach here from Vancouver because I think the facilities at UTM are excellent. UTM is the biggest Olympic Weightlifting Club in the Toronto area," said McGerrigle.

"This was my biggest win in an international competition."  
—McGerrigle

In her training, McGerrigle says that "we break down the lift: we do all kinds of little exercises and put them together for the full lift."

Staff of UTM's Centre for Physical Education share the excitement of McGerrigle's latest accomplishment. "We think it's great," said Program Coordinator Louise Palmer. "Miel works really hard; we are all very proud of her."

"It couldn't have happened to a nicer girl," said Program Coordinator Jack Krist. "Switching sports from gymnastics to weightlifting shows how good an athlete she is. She is a great role-model for other female athletes to follow."

Andrew Bellerby, Program Coordinator and Head Coach of rowing expanded on how valuable Miel is to UTM. "She is a big part of the weightlifting club and a big help to our rowing program," he said.

If you're looking for world-class athletes, look no further than your own university campus for Miel McGerrigle.



UTM student and world-class weightlifter Miel McGerrigle under the weight of the world

photo/courtesy Maryann Wells

## Abomination men's hoops champs

BY JACK KRIST

On August 18, Abomination won UTM's Men's Summer Hoops Championship, defeating team X to clinch the title for the 16 team league.

In the semi final game the league's first-place 9-0 regular season finisher, Sherway Dental, met Abomination (6-1-2). Abomination proved to be the stronger team and advanced to the final. Abomination's Charles Yearwood and Darren Thomas were strong from the perimeter, scoring 22 points and 18 points respectively. The force in the paint was added by tall men Brent Barnhart and Eric Hammond, who chipped in 15 each. Abomination shot seven three-pointers in the game. Vinton Bennett, 19 points, Garfield Thompson, 13, and Yaw Obeng, 13, led the way for Sherway Dental. Abomination led by seven at the half-way point and went on to win the game 76-63.

In the second semi final, team X faced the Gators. The game was a three-point contest. X shot 11 threes; the Gators nine. At the end of the first half X led by 35 points. The Gators, who are predominantly guards, could not match the speed and size that the X team brought to the floor. X was led by former Canada's National Team member Bobby Allen, who scored 42 points, including two dunks and five three-pointers. Reggie

Oblitey and Marc Gotwald, followed Allen, chipping in 17 and 16 points respectively. Leading the Gators was the league's regular season scoring champion, Joel Sherbino, with 24 points. Danny Stephens added 15 points and Ross Hickling chipped in 12.

The league final between Abomination and X was evenly matched. Both teams had great shooting guards and strong forwards. The

The turning point of the game came when Oblitey picked up a player-control-foul.

game did not disappoint the nearly 150 fans who were in attendance. The two teams played the first half equally well, but X led by 10 points with four seconds left in the first half. Suddenly, however, the ball found its way into the hands of the league's regular season three-point champion, Darren Thomas, who calmly drained a three with one second on the clock to pull Abomination closer 48-41. X went into half-time with the lead; however, they had two key players with three fouls each, Oblitey and league all-star Keith Johnson. Allen of X led all first-half scorers with 16 and Thomas had 15 points for Abomination.

Abomination hoped to begin where they left off, but X played great

defense and eventually managed to build an 18-point lead. The turning point of the game came when Oblitey picked up a player-control-foul for his fourth personal foul. Oblitey then verbally abused the officials and was given a technical foul for his fifth overall which eliminated him from the game. This seemed to rattle the X team and Abomination picked up momentum. Abomination were led by strong post-play including a spectacular dunk by Hammond; the team also had five threes in the second half by four different players. X lost more momentum when a breakaway dunk by Allen was waived off due to a technical for trash-talking on an X player in the back-court.

Abomination finally had the lead with under a minute left when Dwayne Hinds hit an off-balance three-pointer to pull X to 90-89. Abomination had the ball in the X team end and was working the ball around when a steal sent Allen on a fast break against Abomination's Hammond. Hammond stumbled and bumped into Allen's leg causing him to miss the lay-up. The X team lost all composure because of the non-call and a technical foul sealed their fate. Rudy Nelson hit four of six foul shots down the stretch to lead his team to a 94-89 victory.

Leading the scoring for X was Allen who finished with 30 points; Thomas led Abomination with 24 points.

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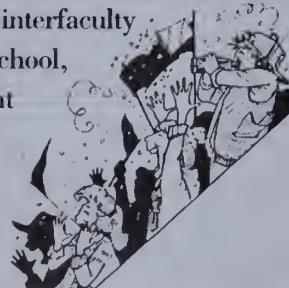
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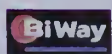
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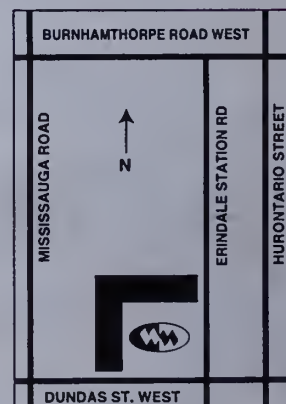
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